

sive: I mean physicians, assistants, nurses, and, if they want, we have a lot of practitioners here in the hospitals. From an economic point of view it is wiser to treat people here than to send them abroad. To take five or 10 children out means a lot [of expense] for transportation. And it means a lot in terms of socio-economic problems for their family, parents, etc. Providing care for patients here is better for sure.

We cooperate with both options: taking children abroad for treatment or treating them here with well-equipped teams, although, again, we prefer the second option. But with the second alternative, you should think about the logistics of that. Otherwise, you cannot provide medical care for sophisticated cases because you suddenly are in need of one item, or a drug that is not available. For the last half-year, the flow of medical supplies has been decreasing from the NGOs. The time of the days after the ceasefire, when many organizations and NGOs came and offered help, is over. At the present time, comprehensive teams, as I define them, do not operate in Iraq. There are doctors and friends working here and there, but this is not done in a systematic and comprehensive way.

We receive a lot of letters from the Red Cross and even from some NGOs, there are people here and there who want to work in Iraq. But the problem is the logistics. From syringes to anesthesia, things are not available. So why are they coming? This is the problem. Our people are well-trained and educated, some of them in the United States and Great Britain. We also have highly qualified Persian doctors here. Therefore, I stress the logistics in a comprehensive team.

Take the example of a surgeon. If I am a surgeon and want to operate on a case, I should only operate when I know that there is a store [of supplies] beside me with all the things I might need for this operation. The question is, how can you arrange the entire logistics for that. It is very difficult. Sometimes you are in need of special material. That's why our colleagues in cardiac surgery are not working. Do you know why? If you operate on the heart of a child and you need a certain valve—there are different sizes for these valves—if he only has five out of 10 possible sizes, he cannot operate, because he can only determine the right size when he opens the heart. It would be a crime if he opened the heart and then found out that the right size was not there.

Sometimes we would order a set of valves for heart operations, and we would get five out of 10 samples. This does not work. It is useless. Or, take the example of cancer drugs. Sometimes we ask for cancer drugs and they are sent to us. But this does not mean one type of drug. For a cancer treatment you need a whole regime of 3-5 different types. If they send only one type, it is useless. If we don't get the full regime, we can't do anything. We cannot cheat the patient. And if you get the drugs, you need the diagnosis, the laboratories for follow-up treatment and investigation. If one agent is not available, how can I proceed with the treatment?

So, I think you understand the problematic situation we are in.

France's Mitterrand is desperate to survive

With the latest reshuffle of the French government, including the ouster of Premier Edith Cresson, the regime of Socialist President François Mitterrand has entered into a "survivalist" mode, in which the only concern of the French President and his team is to survive for one more year, *EIR's* bureau in Paris reports.

The new prime minister, Pierre Bérégovoy, presented his program and cabinet on April 7. Bérégovoy came over from the Finance Ministry and is an avowed supporter of "free market privatization" measures but with a certain "socialistic" flavor (what the daily *Libération* has labeled "social monetarism"), will occupy himself with selling off crucial state assets to foreign financial interests, including the state insurance companies and parts of the state oil apparatus. This is intended to provide enough funds for Mitterrand to "buy off" the social ferment among the youth, workers, and others.

This strategy explains why Jack Lang has been upgraded from his former post of culture minister to a new post of "super" deputy premier, with responsibility for education and culture. His overseeing of education is expected to mean channeling money to schools and universities which have seen extensive student unrest in the past couple of years.

The Mitterrand group's intention is, once they have milked the "French cow" for short-term buyoff purposes, to arrange, after the 1993 legislative elections, for the opposition RPR party to come in and run the government, in a new kind of "cohabitation" agreement. Then, they calculate, the Gaullist RPR will have to be the ones to impose unpopular austerity, and take the heat for it. The mood in the French electorate is so volatile at this point, however, and so hostile to the establishment's antics, that Mitterrand's scenario may be blown apart by mass social ferment in the coming weeks or months.

Former Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement rallied more than 800 people in Paris to denounce the two main turns taken by Mitterrand: the adoption of a free trade economic policy in 1983, and the decision to align with U.S. foreign policy since the Gulf war. Chevènement blamed the huge defeat of the Socialists in the recent cantonal elections on the "social liberalism" of the party which scared away its natural base of workers and middle class. He called on France to adopt a generous policy toward the new nations of eastern Europe and the developing sector as its foreign policy.